

When the Pro-Locos come together

The 1st regional festival of the bands, ethnographic section is a success

Five engagements with the old folk songs of Campania were performed with instruments typical of our tradition: shawms, bagpipes, flutes, and small accordions. This was the **1st regional band festival, ethnographic section**, which was started on **November 28, 2003** at the church of St. John the Evangelist, in the Ferrari district of the city of Serino and which has accompanied the followers throughout Christmastime, ending on December 26 at Torre del Greco in the church of Santa Teresa dei Carmelitani Scalzi, with the performance of the band "Antica Libera" conducted by the celebration's artistic director, Giuseppe Mauro. The performance took place thanks to the synergy between three Pro-Loco of the province of Campania, Arzano, Serino, and Torre del Greco (in the persons of the presidents: Ciro Mainini, Tommaso Rocco, and Antonio Altiero) and with the active contribution of the Campania Region, and was aimed at reviving both the old melodies of the local repertory and those melodies linked to the period of Advent. The public response demonstrated what a success the performance was. "Nowadays — explains Antonio Altiero, provincial president of Unpli, the National Pro-Loco Union of Italy— excessive computerization risks our losing the most genuine part of our history. It is therefore clear that the task of all the Pro-Loco groups and of the Agencies that I represent is that of guaranteeing its continuity, while keeping alive, where necessary, the same ethnic spirit of the places in which we operate. A spirit of belonging that has almost disappeared in the new generations." Begun back in 2002, the festival has grown little by little, while immediately tackling the organizational obstacles with great commitment. It was above all necessary to track down, among the many musical companies, the ones capable of offering a selection of pieces of this nature. In the end, a variegated calendar has been drawn up that— in addition to opening and closing dates—included the dates of December 10 at Arzano and those of December 12 and December 19 in the two districts of Serino. The hope is that the best examples discovered on such occasions will lead to other similar engagements. *Tiziana Mercurio*